



BOSTON COLLEGE

BC BEYOND EDUCATIONAL TRAVEL

With Professor of
Classical Studies
GAIL HOFFMAN

GREECE THROUGH THE AGES

A Springtime Voyage to Greece & the Greek Islands

May 18 - 30, 2024



Palace of Knossos, Crete

Dear BC Alumni and Friends,

I am pleased to invite you on a journey that will explore the long legacy of Greece. Perhaps more than any other land, Greece has exerted a profound and lasting influence on the development of the Western world. Democracy, philosophy, historiography, scientific inquiry, and theater, among others, were born in Greece. And there is no more delightful time to visit this ancient land than in the spring when wildflowers carpet the countryside.

We are also delighted to have **Professor Gail Hoffman** leading this trip, whose expertise in various aspects of ancient Greek civilization will surely enrich your travel-learning experience.

We will begin in Athens, the city where democracy and so many other ideas and concepts of the Western tradition had their origins, and where we will tour its celebrated monuments and witness its vibrant contemporary culture.

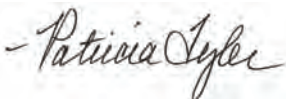
From Athens, we will continue to Naxos, the largest of the Cycladic islands, known for its impressive main town, ancient monuments that include early Byzantine churches with exquisite frescoes, varied landscapes, picturesque old villages, and sandy beaches. From Naxos we will travel by boat to uninhabited Delos, the sacred small island where the divine twins Apollo and Artemis (Diana) were born, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and to Paros, one of the prettiest Cycladic islands, known for its white-washed architecture and the magnificent church of Ekatonapyliani (Our Lady of One Hundred Doors), a center of Christian worship for 1,700 years.

From Naxos, we will sail across the blue Aegean Sea to crescent-shaped Santorini, perhaps the most spectacular island in the entire Mediterranean. Inhabited by a sophisticated society in deep antiquity, half of the island subsided after a cataclysmic volcanic eruption in the late 17th-century BC. Some archaeologists and others have seen this event as the origin of the legend of the lost continent of Atlantis.

We will then continue sailing in the Greek archipelago to Crete, home of the Minoans, who, during the Bronze Age, created the first civilization of Europe. Our three days will provide time to discover its famed Minoan palaces, see the treasures housed in museums, explore the magnificent countryside and taste the food considered to be the source of the widely celebrated Mediterranean diet.

To explore fabled Greece and its islands in spring is a rare and memorable travel experience. Please call today to join fellow Boston College travelers in discovering ***Greece Through the Ages***.

Explore the world through BC,



Patricia Tyler, Director
BC Beyond Educational Travel
Boston College

FACULTY

GAIL L. HOFFMAN

Professor of Classical Studies



Gail has an A.B. in Archeology from Yale University and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Classical Archaeology from The University of Michigan. Her research focuses on the archaeological evidence for interrelationships between Early Iron Age Greece (especially Crete) and the Near East. She

has visited Greece many times, first during college, with the summer session of the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, then as a Fulbright Fellow and later on faculty research grants. She has excavated at Corinth and also in Italy at Paestum. Joining the Boston College faculty in 2002, she now teaches courses such as Art and Myth in Ancient Greece, The Culture of Athenian Democracy, Art and Archaeology of Homer and Troy, and even Elementary Ancient Greek. Gail looks forward to sharing her research and teaching interests as well as her general love of Greece with participants during this exciting trip.



Floor mosaic at the Archaeological Museum of Naxos



Flower-filled Cretan countryside

Oia, Santorini



ITINERARY



Saturday, May 18
DEPART THE USA

Sunday, May 19
ATHENS, Greece

Arrive in Athens and transfer to the elegant *Hotel Athens Capital*, located on Syntagma (Constitution) Square, the heart of the city and within walking distance to many of Athens's attractions. In the evening, enjoy a welcome dinner. (D)

Monday, May 20
ATHENS

One of the most venerable cities, Athens is Europe's oldest city. Its ancient monuments are testimonials to its glorious past that gave birth to democracy and many other ideas and concepts that



Old Venetian harbor, Rethymno, Crete

form an integral part of the Western tradition. Tour in the morning the ancient Agora, the civic and commercial center of Athens and the living heart of its democracy. After lunch, visit the National Archaeological Museum, which houses treasures from Greece's ancient past. Spend the rest of the afternoon at leisure. (B, L)

Tuesday, May 21
ATHENS/MYCENAE/NAFPLION/EPIDAUROS/ATHENS

Leave Athens in the morning, drive over the steep banks of the Corinth Canal to reach Argolis, the northeast corner of the Peloponnese, one of the most significant historic and archaeological regions of Greece. Stop in Mycenae, the powerful center of the Mycenaean civilization, which flourished in the late second millennium BC, and the home of Agamemnon, who led the Greeks to Troy. After lunch in Nafplion, one of the country's most historic and prettiest towns, which is sited at the head of a spacious bay, explore Epidaurus, the sanctuary dedicated to Asclepius, the god of healing. A religious shrine and health center in antiquity, Epidaurus is famous for its incredible 4th-century BC theater, known for its perfect acoustics and harmonious proportions. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 22
ATHENS/NAXOS

Tour in the morning the Acropolis and its fabled monuments. Occupied since prehistoric times, the rocky plateau of the Acropolis rises dramatically out of the plain and dominates the modern city as it did in ancient times. The incomparable Parthenon and other structures built in the 5th-century BC, represent the highest achievement of architecture and art of the Classical period. Visit also the Acropolis Museum, which houses a remarkable collection of sculptures. Then drive along the Athenian Riviera for lunch at a restaurant by the lake of Vouliagmeni, and continue to the airport for the flight to Naxos, one of the most attractive of the islands known as the Cyclades. Upon arrival, transfer to the *Naxos Resort Beach Hotel*, our home for the next three nights. (B, L, D)

Thursday, May 23
NAXOS

Naxos is notable for its long history, varied landscape, old village, early Byzantine chapels decorated with frescoes, and vibrant contemporary culture. Spend the day exploring the island's interior, starting at the Temple of Demeter, which was constructed in 530 BC, and then travel to the village of Chalki, with its distinctive architecture and the church of Protothronos, dating to the 6th-century BC. Nearby are the villages of Moni, home to another early church of Panaghia Drosiani, containing frescoes. Visit also the village of Apeiranthos, perched on a high cliff; and Flerio, site of an ancient marble quarry, where we see two unfinished monumental statues from around 570 BC. Lunch will be served at a village taverna. (B, L)

Friday, May 24
NAXOS/DELOS/PAROS/NAXOS

Cruise by local boat to uninhabited Delos, the small island that was sacred to the ancient Greeks, as the birthplace of the divine



Nafplion

twins Apollo and Artemis. A UNESCO World Heritage Site, Delos is a vast archaeological site and a veritable open air museum. Walk the Sacred Way to see the remains of sanctuaries, temples, the celebrated Terrace of the Lions, and houses, some of which contain exquisite mosaics. After exploring Delos, sail to Paros, world-renowned for its fine marble and home to Archilochus, who was considered by the ancients to be as great as Homer. Visit Parikia, the island's beautiful main town, known for the typical Cycladic architecture of white-wash houses that line the narrow streets and alleyways. One of the most important Byzantine churches in Greece, Ekatontapyliani, is located here. Dating originally to the 4th-century, Ekatontapyliani has been a place of Christian worship for 1,700 years. Return to Naxos late in the afternoon. (B, L)

Saturday, May 25
NAXOS/SANTORINI

Tour in the morning Chora, Naxos's capital town, its narrow streets spread below a citadel built by the Venetians, who held Naxos from 1207 to 1537. Visit the archaeological area of Metropolis; the Roman Catholic Cathedral of the Presentation of the Virgin; and the Archaeological Museum. Facing the town is a small islet, connected to the town by a causeway, on which are the remains of a temple built in the 6th-century BC. Surviving is the monumental monolithic doorway. After lunch, sail to Santorini. As the boat



Monumental gate of the unfinished 6th-century B.C. temple, Naxos



The ancient theater of Epidaurus

approaches the island, view the spectacle of the white-washed town perched on the 1,000-foot-high caldera. Accommodations for the next two nights at the *Hotel Volcano View*. (B, L, D)

Sunday, May 26
SANTORINI

Known in classical antiquity as Thera, Santorini was a flourishing trading center inhabited by a sophisticated society during the Bronze Age. In the late 17th-century BC, a massive volcanic eruption collapsed half of the island and buried its main town, now called Akrotiri, in a thick layer of ash and pumice, preserving its houses, streets and squares as they existed 3,700 years ago. Some have connected the disappearance of half of the island with the legend of Atlantis. Starting in the 1960s, excavations by Greek archaeologists revealed Akrotiri, the Bronze Age town that was buried by the eruption of the volcano. Visit Akrotiri in the morning, one of the world's most important archaeological sites. Only about one quarter of the extensive site has been excavated, but what has been unearthed conveys a powerful lifelike picture of a well organized and prosperous prehistoric city. Spend the afternoon at leisure to enjoy this iconic island. (B)

Monday, May 27
SANTORINI/HERAKLION, Crete

Visit in the morning the superb Museum of Prehistoric Thera, which



Prehistoric Akrotiri, Santorini



The picturesque town of Naxos.

provides a fine introduction to Santorini's Bronze Age civilization, and whose exhibits include items found during the Akrotiri excavations, including murals that decorated houses. Then drive to picturesque and photogenic Oia, which commands the northern entry into the caldera. Nearby is the Domain Sigalas, where we will enjoy lunch, accompanied by the estate's excellent wines. In the afternoon, sail across the blue Aegean to Heraklion, the main city and commercial center in Crete. After dinner at a local restaurant, check in at the *Hotel Megaron*. (B, L, D)

Tuesday, May 28

CRETE

The largest of the Greek islands, Crete is home to Europe's first civilization, the Minoan, which dominated the Aegean world and parts of the Mediterranean, starting around 2000 BC. With an incredibly beautiful and varied landscape that harbors 2,200 plant species, outstanding archaeological sites and museums, a population that is renowned for its hospitality, and a cuisine that has been studied by medical doctors and nutritionists for its health benefits, Crete is a magnificent place to visit and explore. Leave the hotel in the morning for Gortyn, which rose to power in the 1st-century BC when it became the capital of the Roman province of Crete and Cyrenaica (North Africa). Nearby is the Minoan palace of Phaestos. Constructed in the second millennium BC, the site is beautifully located in a plain overlooking Mount Ida. Continue to

the village of Vori for lunch and a visit to the excellent Museum of Cretan Ethnology, and then drive through the scenic Amari Valley to Rethymno, one of the island's most attractive towns, known for its well-preserved architecture dating from the Venetian and Ottoman periods. Return to the hotel in the late afternoon. (B, L)

Wednesday, May 29

CRETE

Spend the morning at leisure. Crete has been known for its curative herbs since antiquity. You may wish to visit the herb market, where shops sell a wide variety of the island's herbs. In the afternoon, tour the palace of Knossos, the largest and most magnificent Minoan palace in Crete. Clustered around a spacious courtyard, the palace contains a maze of rooms, passages and stairways that probably generated the concept of the labyrinth. More than any other palace, Knossos reveals the brilliance and refinement of the Minoan civilization. Continue to the superlative Archaeological Museum, home to the world's finest artifacts. Farewell dinner will be served at a local restaurant that specializes in Cretan cuisine. (B, D)

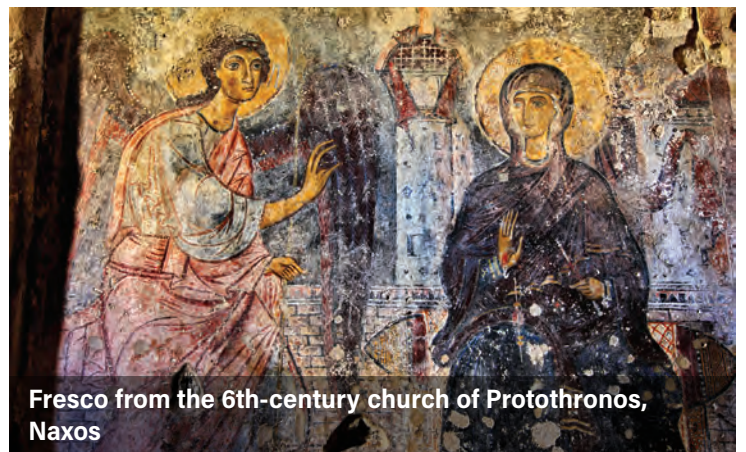
Thursday, May 30

CRETE

Transfer to the airport for the return flight home. (B)



The incomparable Parthenon built in the 5th-century BC, Acropolis, Athens



Fresco from the 6th-century church of Protothronos, Naxos

RATE PER PERSON

\$ 6,990 per person, double occupancy
Single room occupancy supplement: \$ 1,490.

PROGRAM INCLUSIONS

The price includes the following arrangements and services:

- Accommodations at deluxe hotels: Three nights at the *Hotel Athens Capital*, Athens; three nights at the *Naxos Resort Beach Hotel*, Naxos; two nights at the *Hotel Volcano View*, Santorini; three nights at the *Hotel Megaron*, in Heraklion, Crete.
- Full buffet breakfast, with many Greek items available, each morning at the hotels.
- Eight lunches, including a special lunch at a Cretan organic farm, and five dinners, including special "welcome" and "farewell" dinners. Wine, beer and soft drinks with the meals.
- Wine tasting at Santorini's Domain Sigalas.
- Tours and excursions as described in the itinerary outline by air-conditioned, Wi-Fi equipped motor coach and English speaking guide.
- Airfare from Athens to Naxos.
- Cruise by local boat from Naxos to Delos and Paros.
- Boat fare from Naxos to Santorini and from Santorini to Heraklion, Crete.
- Group transfers and handling of luggage overseas at designated times from the airport to the hotel and hotel to the airport, and if applicable, hotel/pier transfers.
- Entrance fees to museums and archaeological sites.
- All local taxes and service charges.
- Gratuities to drivers, tour guides, porters and restaurant service staff.
- Complete pre-departure material.

NOT INCLUDED: International airfare; travel insurance; expenses of a personal nature; any items not mentioned in the itinerary or the above inclusions.



Samples of the nourishing Greek cuisine.

REGISTRATION

BC 24L-0518

Enclosed is my check or credit card no. for \$ _____ (\$ 1,000 per person) as a deposit to hold _____ place(s) on **GREECE THROUGH THE AGES**, May 18 – 30, 2024, with Boston College. I understand that final payment is due ninety (90) days prior to departure (February 18, 2024) and is payable by check or credit card.

For reservations, please call Thalassa Journeys at: (866) 633-3611

or make a check payable and mail with this registration form to:

Thalassa Journeys: 8815 Conroy-Windermere Rd., Suite 406, Orlando, FL 32835

AmEx Discover Visa Master Card
No. _____
Exp. _____ 3- or 4-Digit Security Code _____

Preference at hotels:

Double accommodation Double Bed Single Beds
 Single accommodation *Bed configuration cannot be guaranteed.*

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

FIRST MIDDLE LAST (AS ON YOUR PASSPORT) CLASS OF

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

TELEPHONE (HOME) _____

(CELL) _____

EMAIL _____

Each participant must sign below: I/We have read the "General Information" section and agree to its terms.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

GENERAL INFORMATION

PAYMENT SCHEDULE: A deposit of \$1,000 per person is required to reserve your space on the tour. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure. Payment can be made by personal check or charged to a credit card.

CANCELLATIONS & REFUNDS: All cancellations are subject to a \$300 per person administrative fee. Cancellations received 61-90 days prior to departure will be assessed a penalty equal to 50% of the total program cost per person. Cancellations received within 60 days of departure are subject to 100% cancellation penalties. Requests for cancellations must be made in writing. No refunds will be made for any part of this program in which you choose not to participate.

INSURANCE: We strongly recommend the purchase of trip cancellation insurance, which is available for coverage of expenses in conjunction with cancellation due to illness or accident. Baggage insurance is also recommended. In the event that you must cancel your participation in a travel program, trip cancellation insurance may be the only source of reimbursement.

ITINERARY: The itinerary, accommodations and arrangements are subject to change at the discretion of Thalassa Journeys.

RESPONSIBILITY: Please read carefully the following terms and conditions, which constitute the sole, legally enforceable agreements between the traveler and Boston College and Thalassa Journeys. Boston College and Thalassa Journeys act solely as agents for the traveler with respect to all transportation, hotel and other tour arrangements. In that capacity, we exercise all reasonable care possible to ensure the traveler's safety and satisfaction, but, we neither assume nor bear any responsibility or liability for any injury, death, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity arising in connection with the services of any ship, airplane, train, automobile, motor coach, carriage or other conveyance, or the actions of any third-party, involved in carrying the traveler or in affecting these tours. We are not responsible for damages, additional expenses, or any other losses due to cancellation, delay or other changes in air or other services, sickness, weather, strike, war, civil disturbances, acts or threats of terrorism, travel warnings or bans, termination or suspension of war risks or other carrier insurance, quarantine, acts of God or other causes beyond our control. All such losses must be borne by the traveler, and tour rates provide for arrangements only for the time stated. In the event of cancellation, delay or rescheduling mandated by any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall have the option of accepting in lieu of the original tour such rescheduled tour or other substituted tour(s) as may be offered by us, or else, receiving a refund of as much of such advance tour expenditures as we are able to recover on the traveler's behalf from carriers, third-party tour vendors, etc., but, we shall not have any obligation or liability to the traveler beyond the foregoing. We reserve the right to make alterations to the tour's itinerary and to substitute hotels, transportation methods, or lecturers if this is required. We reserve the right to cancel, delay, or reschedule any tour prior to departure, and, so long as this is not due to any of the aforesaid causes beyond our control, the traveler shall be entitled to a full refund of all monies paid to that point if he/she so desires. No refund shall be made for any unused portion of any tour. By forwarding their deposit(s), the traveler certifies that he/she and/or their dependents, minors or others covered thereby do not have any mental, physical or other condition of disability that could create a hazard for them or other travelers. We reserve the right to decline to accept or to decline to retain any person as a member of any tour should such person's health, condition or actions adversely affect or threaten the welfare or safety of other travelers or impede the tour. Baggage or valuables brought on the tour shall be transported, handled or stored at the traveler's risk entirely, and, we shall bear no liability or responsibility for any damage or other loss thereto. Resolution of any disputes arising hereunder shall be affected exclusively in the state or federal courts presiding in Massachusetts, pursuant to applicable Massachusetts law.

RATES: Tour costs are based upon current airfares, tariffs, and currency values. While we do everything possible to maintain the listed prices, they are subject to change.

**CST 2138603-50
ST 42048**

FOR RESERVATIONS AND INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL **THALASSA JOURNEYS** TOLL-FREE AT **866-633-3611**

Join **Gail Hoffman**, Professor of Classical Studies, on
GREECE THROUGH THE AGES

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866-633-3611



The sacred island of Delos, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

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